New Materials

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Comstock, Michigan

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What does it mean to be different? How do we feel about it? The author uses everyday situations to show how boys and girls become aware of the similarities and differences through comparison, recognition, and analysis. The book makes a strong positive statement: “I am different and being different is O.K.”

Mystery of Lonely Lantern by Florence Parry Heide and Roxanne Heide. Published by Albert Whitman and Company, 1976, 128 pps., Grades 3-8.

Suspense builds in this new Spotlight Club Mystery when, after seeing a mysterious stranger in an abandoned house on Halloween, the junior detectives try to learn the identity of the black-masked figure. The story is written and plotted appealingly for the special reader.

NOTE: The following books, reviewed in the fall '76 issue, are also from the Albert Whitman & Company, 560 West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60637.

Soccer Hero, by Mike Neigoff
Benny Uncovers a Mystery, by Gertrude Chandler Warner
Grandma is Somebody Special, by Susan Goldman
You Go Away, by Dorothy Corey
Cuando Me Enfojo, by Norma Simon
A Button in Her Ear, by Ada N. Litchfield
All Kinds of Families, by Norma Simon
Skateboard Four, by Eve Bunting
Codes for Kids, by Burton Albert, Jr.

The Diagnostic Inventory of Basic Skills by Albert Brigance. Published by Curriculum Associates, Inc., 94 Bridge Street, Newton, Mass., 02158, 1976, 162 pps.

The purpose of this system is to assess basic readiness and academic skills from kindergarten through sixth grade. The in-
ventory allows the teacher to make detailed diagnosis and evaluation. The manual also makes it easy for the teacher to prescribe an instructional program tailored to meet the needs of the child.

The sequence of reading and computational skills includes levels from readiness through several skills in each category of reading, language skills, and mathematics. With the outstanding guidance the examiner is given through the various sub-tests, elementary teachers should find they can reach an accurate evaluation and diagnosis of any student's basic skills.


The four hundred activities in this revised edition are divided into three major areas: reading readiness, beginning reading, and advanced reading skills. Activity objectives are listed, and numbered to accompany the ideas in each of the major areas. Many, many illustrations are given to help the teacher prepare the materials. Of further assistance to teachers is the annotated list of relevant reading materials published recently.